



Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic

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U.S. NAVY



USS ASHLAND (LSD 48)

Dock Landing Ship

Homeport: Little Creek, Virginia

www.ashland.navy.mil



USS Ashland (LSD 48) is the eighth and last of the Whidbey Island (LSD 41) class ships to be commissioned and the second U.S. Navy ship to bear that name. The first was USS Ashland LSD-1 and was commissioned June 22 1942.

The mission of USS Ashland is to conduct sustained combat operations at sea, worldwide, in support of national policy. Designed to transport elements of a landing force to an amphibious objective area, Ashland launches pre-loaded assault landing craft and amphibians in the waterborne assault, receives helicopters as part of the helicopter borne assault, and supports the landing force in subsequent operations ashore. Ashland will operate primarily as an element of an amphibious task force to gain or maintain control through projection of power ashore. With its extensive surface assault and command and control capability, the LSD is often times assigned duties as Primary Control Ship to organize and execute the entire waterborne assault. The ship is also designed as a boat haven and to render docking/repair services to small ships, boats, and landing craft. In comparison to previous LSD's, the Whidbey Island Class introduces to the fleet a significant improvement in amphibious warfare. The new and improved capabilities are updated communications and combat systems, 20- and 60 ton cranes, expanded repair shop facilities, two helicopter landing spots, complete medical and dental spaces, and automated, computer based logistic support. Ashland was also designed specifically to operate Landing Craft Air Cushion LCAC vessels. It has the largest capacity for these landing craft (four) of any U.S. Navy amphibious platform. It will also provide docking and repair services for LCACs and for conventional landing craft.

During the ship's maiden overseas deployment to the Mediterranean from August 1993 to February 1994, Ashland participated in Operation DENY FLIGHT off Bosnia, and Operations RESTORE HOPE and PROVIDE PROMISE off the coast of Somalia. In September 1994, the ship received short notice orders to sail in support of Operation ABLE VIGIL, the Cuban Migration Interdiction effort, during which the crew rescued or received from other units more than 5,100 Cuban migrants. This was immediately followed by Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, the military intervention in Haiti. In October 1994, Ashland became the first amphibious ship to embark females as permanent members of the crew. In December 1995, the ship returned from an extensive six month deployment to South America and West Africa as part of Unitas 36-95 and West African Training Cruise or WATC'95. From October 1997 to April 1998, ASHLAND completed its third deployment, participating in numerous exercises and operations including Operations DESERT THUNDER and SOUTHERN WATCH. Ashland's most recent deployment was to the Horn of Africa, supporting maritime security operations off the coast of Somalia from November 2006 to May 2007.

Ashland proudly displays the Navy and Coast Guard Unit Commendations, the Battle Efficiency Ribbon, two Humanitarian Service Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medal, three Armed Forces Expeditionary Medals, and four Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 609 feet
Beam (Maximum)- 84 feet
Speed: 20+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- 19 feet
Displacement- 11,149 tons
Complement 22 officers 391 enlisted
Marines: 402+ 102 surge

SENSORS

AN/SPS-49(V) 7 Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-67 Surface Search Radar
AN/SPS-64(V) 9 Surface Navigation
Radar
AN/SLQ-32 Electronics
Countermeasures Set

WEAPONS

MK-36 SRBOC
2 MK-15 CIWS
2 25mm machine guns
6 50 caliber machine guns
AN/SLQ-25 Torpedo Countermeasure
Systems
2 Rolling Airframe Missile Launchers

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 4 Colt Industries 16 cylinder PC
2.5 V Diesel engines, 33,000 Shaft
Horsepower
Electrical:
Services:

AIRCRAFT

Keel Laid: April 4, 1988

Christened: November 11, 1989

Commissioned: May 5, 1992